

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for filtering electronic mail messages on a client computer in a distributed computer network, the method comprising the computer implemented steps of:

receiving an electronic mail message at the client computer;

determining whether an interrupt ~~indicia~~ indicator is associated with the electronic mail message, wherein the interrupt indicator is a specific interrupt designation within the subject line of the electronic mail message;

responsive to a determination that an interrupt ~~indicia~~ indicator is associated with the electronic mail message, automatically displaying content of the electronic mail message in a popup window without a close button in a forefront position in the user interface on the client computer, wherein the content of the electronic mail message is automatically displayed to a recipient in the popup window without the close button in the forefront position in the user interface on the client computer in response to determining that a sender of the electronic mail message has authority to issue an interrupt electronic mail message to the recipient, and wherein the authority to issue the interrupt electronic mail message is based on a corporate directory that includes an organizational hierarchy structure; and

displaying the content of the electronic mail message in the popup window without the close button in the forefront position in the user interface on the client computer until the recipient selects an action completed button within the popup window to indicate that actions specified in the electronic mail message are ~~performed~~ completed, wherein selecting the action completed button by the recipient results in a return electronic mail message being sent to the sender of the interrupt electronic mail message to notify the sender that the actions specified in the electronic mail message are completed.

2-24. (Canceled)